



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** House Government, Labor, and Elections

**DATE:** March 3, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable

**BILL:** HB 1239

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 1239, Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection. Municipalities and local governments own, operate, or directly support a portion of the State's critical infrastructure including water and wastewater systems, local public safety communication networks, and transportation corridors. These systems are essential to the daily safety and economic stability of countless communities in the State. HB 1239 provides a clear framework to strengthen coordination, threat assessment, and response planning across these assets.

HB 1239 creates a statewide structure with clear leadership and accountability for coordinating critical infrastructure security efforts, allowing municipalities, infrastructure owners, and local stakeholders to have meaningful, structural support. By allowing local critical infrastructure owners statewide to engage with the Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the bill increases coordinated information exchange, increases local awareness of emerging threats, and supports standardized reporting practices.

The State of Maryland has been hit by bad actors before with a memorable ransomware attack on the Maryland Department of Transportation in 2025. Anne Arundel County had a cyber incident in 2025 as well which affected their government operations and network while Baltimore City's ransomware attack in 2019 affected the city's most critical systems. Municipalities and local governments face an elevated risk of disruption to critical systems and infrastructure due to limited resources and by establishing a singular point of accountability, local governments will benefit immensely. House Bill 1239 advances public safety by aligning government and infrastructure partners to protect the essential systems that Maryland residents depend on without interruption.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 1239 with a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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*MML represents 161 local governments and about 2 million Maryland residents.*

